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November 26, 1951

Lt. General Walter Bedell Smith
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

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Dear General Smith:

I have talked with [redacted] who is just now out of bed from a severe cold. He appreciated the importance of the work to be done and would be honored to work in C. I. A. He does not feel he can leave his present work now, however. First, he is in the last stages of the study of Imports for the Twentieth Century Fund. That will require from three to six months to finish.

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He states further that having just got his academic career under way again he does not feel that he could leave for government service now. If we were in all-out war he would not let his personal situation stand in the way. (I know how unsatisfactory this is from the standpoint of C.I.A.)

(The time when the best men are needed is now, before we are in all-out war.)

I am sorry that my "arm-twisting" was of so little effect.

I have sent you, through channels (Bill Langer) my observations on the current situation. I thought they might be of some interest to the Board also.

All the best!

Sincerely yours,

CBH:pe

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